

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 3113

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, GR, US
SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS:-FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF FOURTH
PLENARY OF SECOND ROUND

REF: ATHENS 3032

1. CALOGERAS PHONED STEARNS THIS MORNING SHORTLY BEFORE
POSTPONED SESSION OF FOURTH PLENARY WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN
AND INFORMED HIM THAT HE HAD STILL NOT RECEIVED NEW NEGOTIATING
INSTRUCTIONS FROM CARAMANLIS.
MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY AFTERNOON
APRIL 21 HAD BEEN DEFERRED DUE TO PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS
FOLLOWING CARAMANLIS' RETURN FROM PARIS SUNDAY NIGHT.
CALOGERAS SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER WISHED A THOROUGH BRIEFING
ON THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND CALOGERAS WAS HOPEFUL
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THAT WHEN THIS OCCURRED HE WOULD OBTAIN THE PRIME MINISTER'S

AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON US FACILITIES AT HELLINIKON.

2. STEARNS OBSERVED THAT THE SUB-GROUPS ON SOFA, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND HELLINKION WERE CONTINUING TO ACCOMPLISH USEFUL WORK, ISSUES WERE BEING CLARIFIED AND AREAS OF AGREEMENT DEFINED. THUS THE TIME BETWEEN PLENARY SESSIONS WAS BY NO MEANS BEING WASTED. HE EMPHASIZED TO CALOGERAS THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE US SIDE CONTINUED TO ATTACH TO ESSENTIAL AMERICAN FACILITIES AT HELLINIKON. THE INFLEXIBILITY OF THE GREEK POSITION ON THIS KEY PROBLEM CONSTITUTED THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT AND INTENDED TO EXPLORE IT FULLY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. HE COULD NOT PREDICT CARAMANLIS' RE-ACTION BUT HAD HOPES THAT SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT.

3. ACCORDINGLY, CALOGERAS AND STEARNS AGREED TO A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION UNTIL APRIL 24. THE SUB-GROUPS MEANWHILE WOULD CONTINUE WITH THEIR SCHEDULED MEETINGS. AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION CALOGERAS EXPRESSED HIS REGRETS FOR THE ASSAULT ON THE EMBASSY LAST NIGHT AND THE DAMAGE INFILCTED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. STEARNS COMMENTED THAT AN EVENT OF THIS KIND INFILCTED MORE THAN PHYSICAL DAMAGE. IT HARMED RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES AND THEREBY COMPLICATED THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN WHICH HE AND CALOGERAS WERE ENGAGED. IN PARTING, CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH STEARNS AS SOON AS HE HAD SEEN CARAMANLIS.

4. COMMENT: POSTPONEMENT OF THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION CONTINUES TO WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE BY MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON THE GREEK SIDE TO AGREE TO A CONTINUING US PRESENCE IN HELLINIKON. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE ABLE TO WITHOLD THE HOME PORTING CONCESSION AND TO EXPLORE IN GREATER DETAIL THE GREEK POSTION ON SOFA, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RELATED SUBJECTS THROUGH THE SUB-GROUP MECHANISM. WE BELIEVE THERE IS STILL A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT THE GREEKS WILL ADOPT A MORE FORTHCOMING POSTION ON HELLINIKON. MEANWHILE, THE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE HELLINIKON SUB-GROUP WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GREEK SIDE TO REGERT TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION

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THAT ALL US FACILITIES THERE MUST BE ELIMINATED.

5. AFTER THE THURSDAY PLENARY MEETING WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE WHEN THE WORK OF THE SECOND ROUND CAN BE COMPLETED. PROGRESS MADE IN SUB-GROUP MEETINGS SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A FINAL PLENARY SESSION ON SATURDAY, APRIL 26. WE DO NOT, IN ANY CASE EXPECT THE SECONG ROUND TO GO BEYOND THE END OF APRIL.

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